

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11-18 and 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 have been cancelled, and claims 1-4, 11-14 and 21 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto; claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto and Mashino et al.; and claims 11-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suga et al. in view of Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that at least one of an entire edge portion of the diffusing sheet adjacent to the lamp, an entire edge portion of the protecting sheet adjacent to the lamp, or an entire edge portion of the reflector includes a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent such that light reflected from a bottom surface of the display device that causes constructive interference with light emitting from the lamp is scattered thereby preventing a bright line on the display device. Independent claim 3 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figures 5-7 and the corresponding description in the specification. In more detail, Figure 5 illustrates an entire edge portion of the reflector 34 including a printing portion 50, Figure 6 illustrates an entire edge portion of the diffusing sheet 35 including a printing portion 50 and Figure 7 illustrates an entire edge portion of the protecting sheet 38 including a printing portion 50. Thus, because the entire edge portions include a printing portion made of a colorless ink containing a light scattering agent, the light refracted

from a bottom surface of the display device that causes constructive interference with light emitting from the lamp is scattered thereby preventing a bright line on the display device.

On the contrary, as shown in Figure 3 of Nagakubo et al., the light quantity control portion 4a (see also Figure 1) does not cover an entire edge portion, but rather is a plurality of spaced apart circles. Thus, as described in column 7, lines 22-35 of Nagakubo et al., the light quantity control portion 4a allows a part of the light from the backlight source 8 to pass through the light quantity control portion 4a and emerge to the lens sheets 3 on the light quality control 4a, and the remaining light reflects at the light quantity control portion 4a and makes irregular reflection in the light transmission member 5. Thus, some of the light passes through and some of the light is reflected.

In addition, Matsumoto merely teaches providing a first irregular reflector region 9 and a modified irregular reflector portion 10 (see Figures 2 and 3B, for example). The Office Action indicates it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the modified irregular reflector portion 10 in place of the light quantity control portion 4a in Nagakubo et al. However, this still would not result in an entire edge portion being covered as in the present invention. Further, the material used in the modified irregular reflector region 10 in Matsumoto would not be sufficient to scatter light reflected from a bottom surface of the display device that causes constructive interference with light emitting from the lamp thereby preventing a bright line on the display device. That is, Matsumoto specifically describes that the modified irregular reflector region 10 irregularly reflect a less quantity of light than the regular reflector region 9 (see Column 5, lines 63-65, for example.) Further, as discussed above, Nagakubo et al. and Matsumoto do not teach or suggest the entire edge portions including the printing portion as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over the combination of Nagakubo et al. and Matsumoto.

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagakubo et al. in view of Matsumoto and Mashino et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted this rejection has also been overcome as claims 6 and 8 are dependent claims and Mashino et al. also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

Claims 11-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suga et al. in view of Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, it is respectfully noted Suga et al. has a filing date of September 20, 2000, which is later than the filing date of the claimed priority Korean Application No. 10-1999-0065036 filed on December 29, 1999. Therefore, if necessary, Suga et al. can be removed by filing an English translation of the claimed Foreign Priority Document. However, as shown in Figure 6B of Suga et al. (which was relied on by the Office Action), it can be seen that the entire edge portion of the reflector does not include the printing portion as claimed in independent claims 11, 12 and 21. Further, as discussed above, Matsumoto and Nagakubo et al. also do not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 11, 12 and 21 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Conclusion

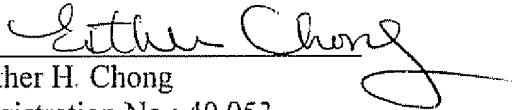
The Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot, obviated or overcome. No issues remain. It is believed that a complete response has been made to the Office Action. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to allow the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Reg. No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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